

PD03 - Best Translation of PD3 To Feature At EpicureanFriends?

Post by "Cassius" of July 17, 2023 at 3:33 PM

[Quote from Godfrey](#)

Which brings up the question: which is the best word choice, "quantity" or "magnitude"?

You guys are the experts on the Greek but this is one instance where I am more drawn to Bailey's version.

To my ear "quantity of pleasure" emphasizes a particular dimension, which invites the listener to think that there is more going on here to consider. The more general "magnitude" variations more clearly invite the connotation of "best" or "height of pleasure." My reading of the issues is that Epicurus has something to say about both perspectives, just as he distinguishes between the "most" pleasure and the "best" pleasure in the letter to Menoeceus where the banqueter chooses not the largest quantity of food, but the most pleasant.

It may very well be that Epicurus was intending to address both perspectives, or maybe only one, so I think it will be interesting to see what you guys think as to the Greek. Perhaps quantity is exactly a bad choice because it is not in the text, or maybe it is a great choice because it is. All I know is that Bailey's "quantity" invites the discussion we are having now, which is important to have. A simple "the height of pleasure" or something to that effect would be more easy to interpret as "best" which to a new reader might be misleading.